[wherein] comprising determining the presence of EBV positive cells [is determined] by amplifying targets from at least one of the following RNA(s):

- [the] a BKRF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 107950 - 109872 of EBNA-1, and
- a target within exons 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 spanning nucleotides 58 - 272, 360 - 458, 540 - 788, 871 - 951, 1026 - 1196, 1280 - 1495 and 1574 - 1682 respectively, of LMP-2,

said method further comprising [the steps of establishing whether the individual suffers from a lympho-proliferative disease, epithelial tumour and/or chronic active EBV infection by] amplifying one or more target sequence(s) selected from the group consisting of

[-] a target from [the] a BARF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 165504 - 166166 to establish whether EBV-positive epithelial tumor cells are present,

[-] a target within [the] a BNLF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 169474 - 169207 of LMP-1 to determine whether the individual suffers from a lympho-proliferative disease,

[-] a target with [the] a BCRF1 reading frame spanning nucleotides 8675 - 10184 of vIL 10 and/or [the] a BDLF2 reading frame spanning nucleotides 132389 - 131130 to establish whether the individual suffers from a chronic active EBV infection.

Claim 2, please delete "Method" and insert -- The method --.
Claim 3, please delete "Method" and insert -- The method --.
Claim 4, please delete "Method" and insert -- The method --.

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5. (amended) [Method] The method according to [any of claims

1-4] claim 1, wherein [the] pairs of oligonucleotides used in the amplification of the respective RNA(s) are selected from the group consisting of:

a pair of oligonucleotides specific for **EBNA-1** consisting of 1.2, 5'-CTCCCTTTACAACCTAAGGC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 2], and 2.1, 5'-AGAGACAAGGTCCTTAATCGCATCC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 3] provided with a T7 polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3;

[and] a pair of oligonucleotides specific for **LMP-1** consisting [o] of 1.1, 5'-ATACCTAAGACAAGTTTGCT-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 12] provided with a T7 polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3', and 2.1, 5'-CATCGTTATGAGTGACTGGA-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 14];

[and] a pair of oligonucleotides specific for **LMP-2** consisting of 1.2,5'-AGGTACTCTTGGTGCAGCCC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 18], and 2.1, 5'-AGCATATAGGAACAGTCGTGCC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 19] provided with a T7 polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3';

[and] a pair of oligonucleotides specific for **BARF-1** consisting [o] of 1.2, 5'-GGCTGTCACCGCTTTCTTGG-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 23], and 2.1, 5'-AGTGTTGGCACTTCTCTGG-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 24] provided with a T7 polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3'[,];

and a pair of oligonucleotides specific for **v1L 10 (BCRF1)** consisting of 1.1, 5'-TGGAGCGAAGGTTAGTGGTC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 27], and 2.2, 5'-AGACATGGTCTTTGGCTTCAGGGTC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 30] provided with a T7 polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3" [for];

and a pair of oligonucleotides specific for **BDLF2** consisting

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of
1.1, 5'-CTACCTTCCACGACTTCACC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 32] provided with a T7 polymerase promoter sequence 5'-aattctaatacgactcactataggg-3' and
2.1, 5'-AGGCCATGGTGTCATCCATC-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 34], or
2.2, 5'-AGAGAGAGAGTAGGTCCGCGG-3' [SEQ. ID. NO.: 35].

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6. (amended) [Method] The method according to [any of claims 1-5] claim 1, wherein the RNA is amplified, using a transcription based amplification technique.

Claim 7, please delete "Method" and insert -- The method --.

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 7 are amended and presented for examination.

It is believed that claims 1 - 7 recite a patentable improvement in the art. Favorable action is solicited. In the event any fees are required with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2334.

Respectfully submitted,

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